

Barrington New Hampshire Town Voter Guide 2006



EXPLANATION OF TOWN BALLOT QUESTIONS

A Companion Guide to the Town Ballot for the Barrington Voter

VOTING DAY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 14

The polls are located at the Barrington Elementary School on Route 125 and are open from 8 AM to 7 PM. You may register to vote on-site providing you show proof of residency in the form of a drivers license, rent receipt, utility bill, mortgage statement or similar document that shows you are a Barrington resident. If you have any questions regarding voter registration, please contact Suzanne McNeil, Supervisors of the Checklist, at 664-9007.

Please use this guide as an aid to understanding the questions that will be included on the ballot. Specific contact information, when available, is provided under each description of an article. We welcome your questions and input! Articles reflect any changes that may have been made by the voters at the Town's Deliberative Session [the first session of Town Meeting] on February 4, 2006.

Article 1. While not worded on the Official Ballot as Article 1, this space contains those individuals running for elected positions in the Town.

Article 2. "Shall the Town of Barrington raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,507,390?" Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$4,237,191.00 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Barrington or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. **A majority of the Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommends this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

Explanation: This is the town's proposed 2006 operating budget, which amounts to an increase of \$333,656.00 or 8% over the 2005 operating budget. This would represent an increase of .41 cents to the town portion of the tax rate [see complete explanation on the tax impact for all articles on the last page]. The default budget figure is determined by removing one-time or reduced fees/rates from the original 2005 operating budget figure and then adding those contract, federal or state mandated issues [workers comp, employer tax and revaluation] or rate increases [fuel oil, gasoline, electric] that we would be responsible for in the present fiscal year. **At the Town's Deliberative Session the proposed 2006 Operating Budget was increased by \$7,000.00 for the construction of a parking lot between Town Offices and the Gym/Library. This amount is included in the Operating Budget figure of \$4,507,390.**

Questions may be directed to the Town Administrator at 664-9007.

Barrington New Hampshire Town Voter Guide 2006

Article 3. Are you in favor of authorizing the Recreation Commission to enter into a multi-year lease with Good Shepherd School for use of the Town Gym? **The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article and a majority of the Advisory Budget Committee recommends this article.**

[Majority Vote Required].

Explanation: A facility lease that would encumber more than one year requires approval from the voters. The Recreation Commission is requesting direction from the voters before considering a multi-year lease agreement with Good Shepherd School for use of the Town Gym during their [GSS] occupancy of the old middle school. The Board of Selectmen supports the need for this request to go before the voters.

Questions may be directed to the Barrington Recreation Department (664-5224) RecDept@Barrington.NH.gov.

Article 4. Are you in favor of rescinding the reorganization of the Recreation Commission that was originally approved in 2003 [Article 24] so that the Recreation Commission is responsible for the financial and personnel matters of the Recreation Department instead of the Board of Selectmen? **A majority of the Board of Selectmen recommends this article.**

[Majority Vote Required].

Explanation: With support from the Recreation Commission and Board of Selectmen, voters approved this reorganization in 2003 to allow us to work with our Auditor on policy changes and fiscal controls for the Recreation Department. With these items now in place, the Board of Selectmen wishes to return these duties to the Recreation Commission.

Article 5. Are you in favor of authorizing the Board of Selectmen to request that a 1% franchise fee be added to your monthly cable bill for a period of 12-months? The revenue generated from the 1% franchise fee will be used to purchase and operate equipment to broadcast our Municipal meetings via cable television. **A majority of the Board of Selectmen recommends this article and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously does not recommend this article.**

[Majority Vote Required].

Explanation: The Board anticipates that this will be a one-time fee so that the town can fund the purchase of the equipment needed to broadcast our municipal meetings on cable television and provide for the operation of that equipment. This would help to provide an additional avenue by which information can be shared with the public. This fee is calculated on the cable television side of your bill and collected by the cable company through your monthly service bills. **NO FEE IS ASSESSED ON THE INTERNET ACCESS PORTION OF YOUR BILL.** By way of example, if you're cable bill amounted to \$30 per month, a 1% franchise fee of \$0.30 would be collected each month. The annual cost would amount to \$3.60.

Article 6. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,752.00 to be added to the Vital Records Preservation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This amount is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Barrington New Hampshire Town Voter Guide 2006

Explanation: This would add money to an existing Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of preserving historic vital records for the Town of Barrington and represents an increase of less than a ½ cent to the town tax rate. The current balance in this account is \$9,393.19 and if approved, the additional funds of \$3,752.00 would allow preservation of vital records covering marriages from 1968 to 1985. The remaining volumes of vital records covering marriages, births, deaths and other town records will continue to be preserved over the next several years.

Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk (664-5476).

Article 7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This amount is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Explanation: This would add \$50,000 to an existing Capital Reserve Fund established to purchase replacement Heavy Equipment for the Highway Department. This Capital Reserve Fund supports the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. A CIP forecasts capital [large \$\$\$ items] expenses that the town has and provides a system [Capital Reserve Funds] by which money is accumulated over time. This helps to level the tax impact by spreading the expense over a growing tax base. The fund balance in this account is currently \$106,577.21. With annual contributions to this fund, it would allow for the continued replacement of equipment. The next expected item to be replaced is the 1990 Plow Truck in fiscal year 2007. This amount represents an increase of approximately .06 cents to the town tax rate.

Questions may be directed to the Road Agent (664-5379).

Article 8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund previously established to construct a new maintenance building at Pine Grove Cemetery. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Explanation: We anticipate that the cost of a new facility will total between \$25,000.00 and \$35,000.00 to construct. The building will be used to house equipment and supplies used for maintenance of the Cemetery. The Cemetery Commissioners are also considering the use of a part of this facility to inter the deceased during cold weather until burial make take place in the Spring. The current balance in the fund is \$25,889.20. This represents an increase of less than a ½ cent to the tax rate.

Questions may be directed to the Cemetery Trustees (664-9007).

Article 9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Cemetery Tractor Purchase Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

Barrington New Hampshire Town Voter Guide 2006

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget.

Explanation: This would add \$5,000 to an existing Capital Reserve Fund to budget for the purchase of a tractor for the Pine Grove Cemetery. The tractor will be used for general maintenance and for digging graves. We estimate the cost of the tractor to be between \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00. The fund currently has a balance of \$5,193.93. This appropriation of \$5,000.00, should it be approved, represents an increase of less than a ½ cent to the tax rate.

Questions may be directed to the Cemetery Trustees at 664-9007.

Article 10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Road Reclamation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Explanation: This would add \$30,000 to an existing Capital Reserve Fund established to budget for rebuilding or reclaiming certain town roads and represents an increase of approximately 3½ cents to the tax rate. While the current balance of this fund is \$107,389.62, we estimate needing between \$250,000.00 - \$300,000.00 to reclaim one of our gravel roads.

Questions may be directed to the Road Agent at 664-5379.

Article 11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Explanation: This would add \$45,000 to an existing Capital Reserve Fund established to budget for new replacement Fire Trucks and represents an increase of .05 cents to the tax rate. The fund has a current balance of \$207,824.37 and it is estimated that we will need \$250,000.00 to purchase the replacement for Engine 2 in 2007. This Engine is one of our front-line pieces of equipment.

Questions may be directed to the Fire Chief at 664-2241.

Article 12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Swains Dam Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant article #2, the operating budget.

Explanation: This would add \$5,000 to an existing Capital Reserve Fund established to budget for upcoming improvements to the coffer dam at Swain's Dam and represents an increase of less than a ½ cent to the tax rate. In 1999, the town replaced the gate and hoist mechanism on the dam to preserve the integrity of Swains Lake and

Barrington New Hampshire Town Voter Guide 2006

to protect life and property. During the replacement, the Engineering firm we hired, recommended that we begin budgeting to replace the cofferdam [the retaining wall in front of the gate and spillway]. The town was awarded a grant to complete these initial repairs and it is our goal to apply for grant funds to offset this expense should such grant funds become available. It is not known the total expense involved in replacing the cofferdam but we will be having an Engineering report outlining conditions and a repair schedule within the next year. The current balance in this fund is \$20,574.77.

Questions may be directed to the Road Agent at 664-5379.

Article 13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget.

Explanation: This would add \$15,000 to an existing Capital Reserve Fund established to budget for a new replacement Ambulance. We estimate that a replacement Ambulance will cost about \$250,000.00 and we expect to replace this item in 2008 or 2009. The fund has a current balance of \$79,644.15. This represents an increase of .02 cents to the tax rate.

Questions may be directed to the Ambulance Chief at 664-9007.

Article 14. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Compactor Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Explanation: This would add \$5,000 to an existing Capital Reserve Fund established to replace the Compactor at the Transfer Station. The Compactor is located in the small building at the town dump and is used to compact the trash that is placed in the two roll-off containers. We have had some failures in each of the compactor motors so we are budgeting to eventually replace the motors. The fund currently has a balance of \$17,329.79 and the cost to replace is estimated at \$20,000.00. This should be the last year this request is needed. This represents an increase of less than a 1/2 cent to the tax rate.

Questions may be directed to the Road Agent at 664-5379.

Article 15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Communications Upgrades for the Emergency Services Departments Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Barrington New Hampshire Town Voter Guide 2006

Explanation: This would add \$25,000 to an existing Capital Reserve Fund to budget for communication upgrades for the Emergency Services Departments. Industry standards are shifting from analog to digital communications and these funds are being requested to budget for the swap-out of communication equipment over a period of time. This would result in an increase of .03 cents to the tax rate. The total cost of equipment replacement is between \$100,000.00 and \$150,000.00. The fund has a current balance of \$25,008.13.

Contact the Town Administrator (664-9007), or speak to any of the Emergency Services Chiefs for more information.

Article 16. To see if the town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Town Facility Improvements and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$356,000.00 to be placed in this fund and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agent[s] to expend the funds in this capital reserve fund. This fund will be titled the Town Facility Improvements Fund. This amount to come from general taxation. **A majority of the Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation and a majority of the Advisory Budget Committee do not recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Explanation: This request was amended by the voters to \$356,000.00 during the Deliberative Session held on February 4, 2006. The reason for the amendment was to include recommendations from our Engineering Consultant to phase the renovation of a portion of the Town Office facility [old Middle School Annex] over time. The Engineer has been reviewing the building layout, mechanical systems, energy efficiency and access. An as-built plan of the building has been generated as well as an overview report on facility use. The Engineer has recommended that the first step towards renovating include the addition of an elevator to the outside of the building so that the Town can come into compliance with Accessibility Design. The funds being requested will be used to complete the elevator addition and minor interior work to create hallway access to the elevator. The budgeted cost of the elevator is \$350,000 the cost of which may be adjusted after we receive formal bid prices on the work. The balance of \$6,000.00 will be used for the engineering, drainage and possible new layout of the parking areas and curb cuts surrounding the complex. The Town Office facility is a split-level building with four different elevations. In order to provide access to each level by the public, it is recommended that we add an elevator. This Fund will be used for this and future improvements to the Town Hall Facility. This will add approximately .45 cents to the tax rate.

Please contact Selectman George Bailey (664-2973) or Town Administrator (664-9007) for additional information.

Article 17. To see if the town will vote to establish a non-Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-C for the purpose of acquiring professional services to conduct legal and factual research regarding the identification, protection, conservation and management of water resources for the town and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be placed in this fund to be named the Water Sources non-Capital Reserve Fund and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agent[s] to expend the funds in this non-Capital Reserve Fund. This amount to come from general taxation. **A majority of both the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.**

[Majority Vote Required].

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Barrington New Hampshire Town Voter Guide 2006

Explanation: The Board of Selectmen established a Water Committee whose charge is to determine the existence of legal documents that encumber any portion of the town's water resources to other municipalities through this one-time expense. Other communities have implied that they are entitled to remove water from our lakes, streams and groundwater resources for their own use. The town would like to determine what obligations might be in place so that we can move towards better management of Barrington's water resources for present and future generations. This will add approximately .03 cents to the town's tax rate.

Contact Water Committee members Steve Conklin (664-2563) or George Bailey (664-2973), for more information.

Article 18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,000.00 to purchase a Digital Video Recording System to monitor portions of the Public Safety Building and adjacent parking lot. This amount to come from general taxation. **A majority of the Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommends this appropriation. [Majority Vote Required].** This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Explanation: We wish to purchase a Video Recording System that would be mounted on the exterior of the Public Safety Building to record activity in the parking lot to safeguard individuals during custody exchanges or other police/legal business. In addition, the recording system would be installed in the booking room and investigation rooms to provide electronic documentation of these activities for possible use in legal proceedings. This is a one-time expense and would add approximately 1½ cents to the tax rate.

Please contact Chief Conway (664-7679) for additional information.

Article 19. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$60,000.00 to purchase a Utility Vehicle for the Fire Department. This amount to come from general taxation. **The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommend this appropriation. [Majority Vote Required].**

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget article.

Explanation: This money will be used to replace the 1972 Utility Vehicle. The current vehicle is a former delivery truck, which is in a constant state of disrepair. Safety concerns include severe body rust, improper safety restraints, limited protection between fire personnel and equipment and other maintenance issues. The vehicle responds to roughly 40% of all department calls and carries specialized equipment to perform auto extrication, ice rescue, hazardous material incidents, structure fires and other calls for the protection of life and property. This specialized equipment is not carried on any other fire apparatus. This would add approximately .07 cents to the town's tax rate.

Please contact Chief Walker at 664-2241 for additional information.

Article 20. TO SEE.

Explanation: Originally, this article requested \$7,000.00 to be raised to construct a new parking area between town offices and the Gym/Library facility. A majority of the voters in attendance at the Deliberative Session on February 4, 2006, voted to add these funds [\$7,000.00] to the Operating Budget article and to amend this article to, "TO SEE" to render it ineffective.

Barrington New Hampshire Town Voter Guide 2006

Article 21. TO SEE.

Explanation: Originally, this was a petition request to adopt an elected Municipal Budget Committee. A majority of the voters in attendance at the Deliberative Session held on February 4, 2006, voted to amend the article to, "TO SEE" to render it ineffective.

Article 22. TO SEE.

Explanation: Originally, this petition request asked to raise and appropriate \$75,000.00 for legal costs associated with the USA Springs ground water withdrawal. A majority of the voters in attendance at the Deliberative Session held on February 4, 2006, voted to amend the article to, "TO SEE" as these funds were already included in the Operating Budget article. The voters determined that this expense should remain as part of the Operating Budget under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

SUMMARY: The effect of approving the operating budget and all warrant articles would be approximately \$1.53 added to the town portion of the tax rate. **HOWEVER, it is expected that the value of new construction and additional town revenues will absorb any increase to the tax rate that approval of these items would create. Early estimates of the town portion of the tax rate indicate that the rate of \$2.33 per thousand would remain unchanged. However, the Department of Revenue will make a final determination of the tax rate in October of this year when the rate is set. Please feel free to contact the Town Administrator at 664-9007 with any questions you may have.**

Please get out and vote...
you CAN make a difference!
We hope to see you at the polls on
March 14, 2006 from 8 AM to 7 PM.
Take this handy guide with you.

